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RANDY RICHARDVILLE

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

THE MICHIGAN SENATE

June 10, 2011

The Honorable Mike Kowall
State Senator
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Dear Sen. Kowall,

I write to ask you to begin hearings on Senate Bills 410 and 411, both of which I have sponsored, that would create an authority empowered to build a new international bridge between Detroit and Windsor, Ontario.

The issue of creating another international crossing in our state has been discussed for nearly a decade, with an abundance of debate on all sides of the issue. With that debate has come an abundance of confusing, if not contradictory, information regarding the merits, viability, and impact of such a crossing. In fact, the legislature has already wrestled with this issue on numerous occasions in the form of prior legislation authorizing a bridge as well as annual boilerplate provisions in appropriations bills.

I believe, as do a wide array of Michigan's private and public sector leaders, that a new international crossing in Detroit would benefit Michigan's citizens by creating jobs and further enhancing the state's role in international commerce. I sponsored Senate Bills 410 and 411 because I believe the legislature and the State of Michigan as a whole need to have the debate on this issue. The Michigan Senate is a deliberative body ideally suited to considering a complex issue like this and sorting out the arguments on each side of the debate so that the merits can be weighed.

As you consider this legislation, I will support you and your committee's efforts to bring to light the information necessary to educate members of the Senate so that they may make an informed decision on this issue.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Randy Richardville
Senate Majority Leader
The Seventeenth District